No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/09/01 : LOC-HAK-552-1-42-1

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DE WTE #2252 1192355
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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 40//

TO COVEY/PASSAGE/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

VIA BLACK PATCH WH00500

TOHAK 40

APRIL 29, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS

PRC MARITIME PRESENCE NEAR FIJI: IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE NEW ZEALAND DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE, OUR DAO LEARNED THAT A NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE P3B ORION HAS SIGHTED AND PHOTOGRAPHED NEAR FIJI TWO PRC SURFACE SHIPS, IDENTIFIED AS OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH SHIPS. ORION ALSO HAD SOME INDICATIONS OF A DIESEL SUBMARINE NEARBY. NEW ZEALAND DEFENSE INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO PROSECUTE THE SUBMARINE CONTACT. THE ONLY UNUSUAL ASPECTS REPORTED TO THE DAO WERE LARGE NUMBERS OF LARGE ANTENNAE ALOFT ON THE SURFACE SHIPS. THE PURPOSE OF THE FORCE IS OBSCURE BUT DAO SUGGESTS THE FOLLOWING AS POSSIBLE CONNECTIONSD

-- ASSISTING ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PRC DIPLOMATIC POST IN SUVA;
-- MISSILE OR SPACE EVENT SUPPORT; OR,
-- COMMUNICATIONS PATTERN/PROPAGATION STUDIES FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE USE IN THESE OR OTHER CHINESE ADVENTURISM IN THE AREA.

A SEPARATE MESSAGE FROM THE DIA LIAISON OFFICE IN CANBERRA REPORTS THAT THE ORION ALSO REPORTED THAT HER RADAR HAD PICKED UP A DISAPPEARING CONTACT; THIS CONTACT WAS INVESTIGATED USING AN EXPLOSIVE ECHOING DEVICE AND A POSSIBLE SUBMARINE WAS DETECTED. IF THE PRESENCE

DIA Review Completed

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

SEC FILE

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MORI/CDF C03221594

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OF A SUBMARINE IS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED, THEIR CONFIDENCE IN IT BEING THE HAN NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINE IS DIMINISHED AS IT IS PERFECTLY POSSIBLE FOR A DIESEL SUBMARINE TO BE REFUELED FROM EITHER OF THE SURFACE SHIPS. BASED ON AVAILABLE EVIDENCE NOSIC AGREES WITH THIS ANALYSIS. [redacted] CHINA IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE ON [redacted] AND MAY CONFIRM OR DENY THE PRESENCE OF THE HAN IN CHINESE PORTS. IN ADDITION THE NAVY IS SCHEDULED TO FLY ANOTHER MISSION TODAY WHICH MAY PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETAILS. 25X1 25X1

SENTIMENT FOR SEPARATE STATUS IN PALAU: WITH THE NORTHERN MARIANAS HAVING OPTED TO BECOME A COMMONWEALTH OF THE U.S., THE FIVE REMAINING DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA ARE DECREASINGLY INCLINED TO A UNITED POLITICAL FUTURE. TRUK, PONAPE, AND YAP SEEM TO BE FAVORING INDEPENDENCE, WHILE THE MARSHALLS AND PALAU MAY CHOOSE SOME FORM OF ASSOCIATION WITH THE U.S. PALAUN ANTICIPATION OF SUBSTANTIAL FUTURE INCOME FROM A PROPOSED JAPANESE AND IRANIAN-BACKED SUPERPORT IN THE DISTRICT IS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SENTIMENT FOR SEPARATISM FROM THE REST OF MICRONESIA. PALAU WOULD LIKE TO HOLD SEPARATE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH US. (TAYLOR)
0454

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